



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

JUDICIAL PROCEDURES COMMISSION

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration/500 West Temple Street, Room B-50/Los Angeles, California 90012 / (213) 974-1431

MINUTES OF THE 691st MEETING OF THE JUDICIAL PROCEDURES COMMISSION

The 691st meeting of the Los Angeles County Judicial Procedures Commission was held on April 10, 2008, in Room 140 of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, California. A list of those present follows:

MEMBERS PRESENT

Paul A. Jacobs, Vice Chair
Andrew Friedman
Annie Y. Huang
Ann Jackson
Bertrum M. CeDillos
Clifton W. Albright
David C. Voss, Jr.
Gary L. Barr
Neal S. Millard
William Galloway

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Nelson Atkins, Chair
Gary L. Barr
Sylvia Scott-Hayes

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

Bernard Barber, Detective, Los Angeles Police Department
Dennis Zine, Councilman, Independent Cities Association
Heather Aubry, Los Angeles City Attorney's Office
James Endman, Honorable Judge, Los Angeles Superior Court
Laura Green, Public Defender's Office

COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

Bea Dieringer, District Attorney's Office
Margaret Little, Superior Court
Zoe Venhuizen, Superior Court

STAFF

Rosemary Osuna, Commission Staff
Mireya Rivera, Commission Staff

MEMBERS

Nelson L. Atkins
Chair

Paul A. Jacobs
Vice Chair

Clifton Albright
Annie Y. Huang
Bertrum CeDillos
Andrew Friedman
Gary L. Barr
William J. Galloway
Ann Jackson
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Sylvia Scott-Hayes
David C. Voss, Jr.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Jacobs called the 691st regular meeting of the Los Angeles County Judicial Procedures Commission (JPC) to order at 12:26 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Commissioner Voss. Introductions of Commissioners, Ex-Officio Members, County Representatives and guests followed.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES MARCH 13, 2008

On motion of Commissioner CeDillos, seconded by Commissioner Galloway, and unanimously carried, the minutes for the meeting of March 13, 2008 were approved and the supplemental report given by Ms. Bea Dieringer regarding the Child Custody Exchange program was received and filed.

VICE-CHAIR REPORT

The Vice-Chair recognized Commissioner CeDillos who welcomed and introduced newly appointed Commissioner David C. Voss, Jr. to the Commission.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

Amended Commission Bylaws

Commissioner Millard reported the following:

- The draft of proposed changes to the bylaws now gives the Commission the authority to change the day or time of the regular meeting without the necessity to amend the bylaws. In the future, if the Commission determines there is a need to change the meeting day or time, a motion must be called and a majority of commission members must vote.
- Commissioner Millard pointed out in the bylaws under the section that describes the make up of the commission, that there is no distinction between commissioners and ex-officio members. For the purpose of determining a quorum it is necessary to have a clear distinction of the members. Therefore Commissioner Millard recommended making this correction.

Vice-Chair Jacobs called for a motion to refer the bylaws back to County Counsel for review. The motion was moved by Commissioner CeDillos, and seconded by Heather Aubry and it was unanimously approved.

Fund Raising

Commissioner Jackson reported the following:

- Contributions made to the Commission's Trust Fund are tax exempt. This information was confirmed by the Office of the Auditor-Controller. Commissioner Jackson then recognized Commission Huang. Commission Huang presented the Vice-Chair with a donation of \$1000 for the Commission to use in its support of the Self-Help Centers.

The Vice-Chair and Commissioners thanked Commissioner Huang for her contribution.

Commissioner CeDillos reported the following:

- Margaret Little, Superior Courts, indicated there is not currently a funding need for the Child Waiting Room program. However, there is a need for funding the Child Custody Exchange program. Commissioner CeDillos stated one source of funding would be requesting a grant. He stated that there is an online directory that lists all the foundations throughout the United States that offer grants. He suggested that in the future it would be an excellent resource for potential funding.

Diversity on the Bench

Commissioner Albright requested that committee members, the Honorable Councilman Dennis Zine and Heather Aubry be listed on future agendas and reports. He then recognized Commissioner Huang.

Commissioner Huang reported the following:

- The Committee has decided to draft an article for publication. The subject of the article will be "Promoting Diversity on the Bench without Promoting a Political Cause". The article will include some statistical data on the gender and racial demographic makeup of the Bench. In addition, there will be some comparison to the current and past administrations and the candidates selected to serve under those administrations. However, the article will be specifically targeted to Los Angeles County.
- Commissioner Huang expressed difficulty in located biographical information on Judges; Commissioner Millard suggested that the Daily Journal has information

on judicial appointees. Also, Vice-Chair Jacobs stated that the Law Library has a publication titled "Judicial Profiles" that may be of assistance.

- Commissioner Huang stated that the goal of the committee is to reach out to the different bar associations throughout Los Angeles County and encourage their members to apply for judgeships.
- Commissioner Albright stated that the committee was formed to increase awareness of the judicial appointee selection process and to ensure access.
- Councilmember Zine stated that he wants the information to be available to let individuals know that they are welcome to apply and what opportunities are available to them. He further stated that this is a worthy endeavor of the Commission.

Vice-Chair Jacobs thanked the committee members for their work and extended an offer to assist them if needed.

Child Custody Exchange Program Update

Bea Dieringer reported the following:

- The commission staff provided maps with geographical boundary of the Supervisorial District that have been useful in determining what Sheriff stations are located in the Supervisorial District selected for expansion of the program. The First and Fourth Districts both have five Sheriff stations and the Third District has three.
- Ms. Dieringer plans to meet with Captain Dacus and to proceed informally on contacting the stations identified in the selected Supervisorial Districts. She further plans to evaluate the list of stations and determine if any of the stations have space available to accommodate the program. With the goal of eventually locating stations and agencies that provide staff for the program and working to develop a budget. The cost of the program will then be presented to each Supervisorial District.
- Commissioner CeDillos stated that once a budget is established for the cost of the program he would be willing to assist in locating a foundation as a possible source of funding.

- Heather Aubry stated that at a previous meeting a representative from LAPD had indicated that there may be space in some of the LAPD stations. Responding, to Ms. Aubry, LAPD Detective Bernard Barber stated that he is checking to determine if any of the stations have space for the program.

Update on Self-Help Legal Access Centers

Zoe Venhuizen reported the following:

- Ms. Venhuizen thanked Commissioner Huang for the donation to fund the Self-Help Center and assured her that it would be put to good uses.
- Margaret Little stated the Center in the Stanley Mosk Courthouse has been open more than a year and is operating smoothly and serves 250 – 300 people daily. A second Center has been opened in Norwalk and it too is operating smoothly.
- It is a goal to have a Center in each Courthouse that has a Family Law Department. In looking to expand the program, space and funding has been secured for Pasadena and it is now in the preliminary development phase.
- The Stanley Mosk Center has been so successful that there are plans to develop an annex in the Mosk Courthouse and expand the services to include some Civil issues.
- The Centers offer workshops to assist individuals in preparing for their case and there is no income requirement to qualify for assistance.

Vice-Chair Jacobs thanked Ms. Venhuizen for her report.

MATTERS NOT ON THE POSTED AGENDA (TO BE PRESENTED AND PLACED ON A FUTURE AGENDA)

Councilman Zine would like information on the LAPD Overtime Reduction for Court Appearance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the 691st meeting of the Judicial Procedures Commission adjourned at 1:15 p.m.